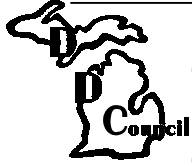


The



# Monday Update

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## **Everyone should be aware of the basics of long term care!**

The subject of long term care (LTC) is complicated. Everyone you talk with has a different outlook on the LTC situation in Michigan. But the more you know about LTC, the better you'll understand why this set of services needs to be changed.

LTC is a support many people with disabilities get from Medicaid. Medicaid has been around since 1965 and pays for housing and other services. Most consumers of LTC in Michigan live in nursing homes. A significant number of nursing home residents have developmental disabilities or mental illness. The balance are elderly or are people who have special needs and also need a place to live. There are about 12,000 people in nursing homes in this state.

### ***About \$120 a day***

There are many nursing homes in Michigan that accept Medicaid LTC recipients. According to the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC), it costs about \$120 a day for a bed in a Michigan nursing home. That's nearly \$44,000 a year. Home Help costs \$3,600 a year. With Medicare dollars in short supply, doesn't

offering the option of home help seem to make more sense?

Living choices other than nursing homes, at present, are: home care, group and congregate living, such as adult foster care, homes for the aged and assisted living, and adult day care.

### ***Not everyone belongs***

A good percentage of nursing home residents should not be living in them and should move out as soon as they have made their choices.

This counters the public image that all nursing homes are filled with very old and very "impaired" people.

There are other folk tales about nursing homes, such as:

- people are safer living in a nursing home;
- nursing homes provide 24-hour care; or
- a loved one living in a nursing home means less stress on the rest of the family.

So how does a person find oneself in a nursing home? Are you possibly getting out of the hospital but require additional care, maybe even long term care? The hospital is very good and efficient at transferring you from its care to that of a nursing home...no fuss, no muss.

A person can also find themselves in a nursing home when they – usually in the case of elderly people – or family members

think the time will never come when supports and care will be needed. They just don't plan for the future. Also, a person living on his or her own who requires supports to stay independent may not be able to get those needed supports.

## ***Vast and disorganized***

That is because services are spread across a wide spectrum of community agencies. It may be nearly impossible to access the correct office that supplies a support. The system is just too vast and disorganized and communication is poor; there is no one place a person can go for information and direction...no "single point of entry." So the person who needs supports but can't locate the proper resource may just wind up in a nursing home.

## ***It's also about dollars***

Many people will say the problem is money. Medicaid money is in short supply. Across the nation, financing LTC is a very serious problem. A serious problem is just around the corner because consumers of LTC will increase in huge numbers as baby boomers grow older and retire, in addition to an increase of persons with developmental disabilities.

Clearly it is not going to be possible to finance this approaching catastrophe until someone starts planning. The present national system is a collection of disjointed agencies and laws that will not support the coming demand. National policymakers must hurry to plan for this on all fronts: rising medical charges, underpaid workers, poor organization, and rapidly rising administrative costs.

Here in Michigan, many state programs that use Medicaid dollars have stopped or are threatened. Budget short-falls and

increasing demand are two major reasons for the lack of Medicaid dollars.

Dental services are a good example of what happens when there is not enough money: Medicaid will no longer pay for them for people with disabilities. Of course, having bad teeth can lead to other health problems that could wind up costing Medicaid more in the long run.

As state budgets crunch and rising demand reduces dollars, policymakers must find other ways of saving money. One method is to move people who need LTC out of nursing homes. These places are very expensive and many current residents can live in almost any other type of housing for less Medicaid money.

Nursing homes can be somewhat unpleasant places to live. Care and supports can be substandard and even threaten the health of a person with a developmental disability. Many people who now live in nursing homes might welcome a chance to live almost anywhere else! Some would prefer to stay, others would stay because they might require a level of services not found anywhere else.

Consumers wishing to move out of a nursing home may find their plans thwarted by the system that put them in there in the first place. There is a program called the MI Choice Waiver that has slots available to place nursing home residents in different living settings, but the slots are always filled and waiting for a slot can take many years.

## ***Most expensive option***

In short, this means scarce public dollars are paying for the most expensive LTC housing option – nursing homes - which is also the least desirable. This state policy is called "institutional bias." There used to be lots of institutional bias, and while it can still be found, it's practiced much less today.

In the case of Medicaid dollars, LTC and nursing homes, institutional bias places the interests of the nursing home industry ahead of the wishes of many nursing home dwellers and common sense money management. This Medicaid program is said to be “bias” toward the “institution” of nursing home care.

## ***Figures tell the story***

There are a lot of dollars influencing the bias. For example, in 2002, Michigan spent \$1.7 billion on nursing home services. Yes, \$1.7 billion. About \$580 million was spent on home care.

This bias takes another form, a sort of cultural bias. Nursing homes have become the first choice destination, as far as state policymakers are concerned, for people with disabilities and the elderly. This is caused in part by pressure from constituents wanting help in placing a family member in the LTC system.

There is a fear of sorts by policymakers that if they don't continue to fund nursing homes, constituents back home will become distressed when there aren't nursing facilities available when it's time to place a family member in one. So there is an emotional impact among policyholders as well.

It is also the result, in part, of successful lobbying efforts by the nursing home industry, which has demonstrated to policymakers that there are not really any good alternatives to nursing homes, that nursing homes are the first choice.

This is wrong. What needs to happen is a shift in funding away from automatically sending a person to a nursing home, to providing home and community-based living choices. A person could choose to live in a nursing home, of course, but under the best possible conditions. This provision

might cause many nursing homes to improve services and care.

This may mean creating a payment system that rewards those organizations and individuals who provide better care and relevant options, and that includes nursing homes. The result would be improved quality of life and effective cost controls. Money would also be saved because people with disabilities would not be forced to accept services they don't need in order to get services they do need or want.

Most importantly, this means giving control of the LTC Medicaid money to the person on whom the money is being spent. This also means a change in Medicaid policy that has been practiced for nearly 40 years...as long as Medicaid has been paying for nursing homes residence.

It may also mean a change in state law. As a rule, the federal agency that controls Medicaid, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, part of the Health and Human Services agency, gives each state some latitude in how they spend their Medicaid money. It may be possible they would accept the new payment system model. But first, pilot projects would have to be started to see if the new system actually worked.

## ***Part two is next***

Does this seem like an impossible task...redirecting more Medicaid money toward consumer choices and away from the allure of whisking people off to nursing homes? This is exactly what some states are doing, as you will see in the next issue of Monday Update.

To be continued...

# Cash & Counseling pilot holds promise for independence

An important part of revitalizing long-term care is making certain that people using available money can choose the supports and services those funds buy. Services may include bathing, dressing, grooming, preparing meals and housekeeping. But such services require hiring people to perform them and material to complete them.

## ***People must decide***

People need control over such services and must be able to decide who will provide them and when. It's like anyone receiving a paycheck: he or she must sit down and make choices about where the money is going.

This is an important part of the long-term care cycle. It is where the concept of Cash & Counseling (C&C) comes in. The program intends to show that if people with disabilities and the elderly had more control over the services they receive, they could better meet their needs for probably the same amount of money, or even less.

The idea behind C&C is allowing the consumer choices in managing his or her design and purchase of services and goods. To help with the money management, supports brokers/counselors will help balance the options. Other financial bookkeeper-types are also available to help with the paperwork.

These financial supports brokers have proven popular in the previous pilot programs created since C&C began in 1995. It is a partnership between The Robert

Wood Johnson Foundation and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In order to bring the pilot program to Michigan, the Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH) was awarded a grant from the foundation.

The objective of a C&C program is to finally establish consumer-directed options as part of the core of long-term care in Michigan. The grant project will help agencies build local capacity to provide C&C services and demonstrate the usefulness of Cash & Counseling. The project also tests the overall system to see if such a program reduces total demand on the system.

The DCH's demonstration project calls for 600 consumers within the Michigan MIChoice waiver program to voluntarily work with state agency staff and advocates to develop the C&C model in three different areas of the state. The project will be managed by a coordinator and a steering committee of advocates from around the state, such as the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition.

The "overall goal" of the C&C pilot, says DCH, is "to instill as part of Michigan's evolving LTC system coordination activities a strong base for assuring that consumer choice, direction, and control is (sic) available to those who require LTC services and supports."

## ***The first three states***

The first three states that conducted similar projects – Arkansas, Florida, and New Jersey – report success. All three are taking steps to make consumer direction a permanent option for their Medicaid beneficiaries.

Those running the pilot program hope to see that, under Michigan's systems, personal care expenses mostly offset by few costs for

nursing care, home health and other Medicaid services. The program should be up and running in 2005 through the end of 2007.

For more information on C&C, please contact Pam McNab at DCH, 517-241-9995, [mcnabp@michigan.gov](mailto:mcnabp@michigan.gov).

## **Council member is now an author, too**

DD Council member Barbara LeRoy, Ph.D., is the co-author of a book on disabilities. The basic topic of the 166-page paperback is in its title: *Women with Disabilities Aging Well: A Global View*.

LeRoy is director of the Developmental Disabilities Institute's Center for Excellence at Wayne State University. Her co-author is Patricia Noonan Walsh, Ph.D., of the University College, Dublin, Ireland.

*Women with Disabilities Aging Well: A Global View* asks, then answers, the question, what do women with developmental disabilities experience as they age, and what can service providers and researchers learn from their stories? The stories are spoken histories of 160 women from 80 different countries.

This gives the book an international scope and multicultural flavor. Emphasis is on showing that disability is not a disease. Complimenting the oral histories is informative research into a subject that LeRoy says has been largely ignored. The subject is "under-represented in either service programs or research," and has been a long-standing interest of hers.

LeRoy adds the book gives readers facts and conclusions that the authors believe can help insure healthy aging for women with disabilities. The book is also intended to guide future policymaking and research into this worldwide subject.

Chapter subjects include health, a sense of well-being, and social roles. LeRoy says the book took about 18 months to write and should appeal to Monday Update readers such as family members and direct care workers; any self-advocate or advocate interested in the issue.

LeRoy says writing a book is not difficult, but there has to be organization and a concerted effort to write each chapter. "Patricia and I had a clear idea of what we wanted to do and had to the time to work on the book. We'd write individual chapters separately, reviewed them back and forth, then finalized the product." LeRoy and Walsh have worked and researched together for a number of years.

*Women with Disabilities Aging Well* is printed and sold by Brookes Publishing, a well-known printer of books in the disability field.

The book is available from Brookes Publishing. It is \$29.95 and can be ordered online at [www.brookespublishing.com](http://www.brookespublishing.com), or by calling Brookes at 1-800-638-3775.

### **New members welcome**

## **New Michigan S-D initiative is up and in operation**

Thanks in part to support from the DD Council, Michigan has the benefit of a new self-determination outreach. If you would like to get in on the ground floor of what looks to be a very active, far-reaching group of advocates, please read on.

Michigan Partners for Freedom got its start last spring at a Council-sponsored gathering in Atlanta, Georgia. The sessions were hosted by the Center for Self-Determination of Ann Arbor.

The assembly brought together self-determination advocates from many states.

The Michigan delegation met over a period of three days and forged a new initiative. This dynamic group brought an excellent work plan and a lot of enthusiasm back to Michigan.

The result of that plan and enthusiasm is Michigan Partners for Freedom. Initial meetings have been taking place in Lansing near the end of each month. The Partners are presently talking with the Michigan Self-Advocacy Network about joining forces.

Michigan Partners for Freedom is described in its brochure as “a grassroots movement of people with disabilities, family members, advocates, and organizations working in the field of disabilities to make Self-Determination a reality for all Michigan citizens.” It works toward “Building Statewide Demand For Self-Determination.”

### ***Current info is vital***

It is the aim of the Partners to provide its members with: access to current information on self-determination at local, state and national levels, and provide technical assistance for members to help them put self-determination in their lives and communities.

The Partners’ brochure defines “freedom” as: (F) full citizenship; (R) respect; (E) empowerment; (E) equality; (D) dignity; (O) opportunities; and (M) for all Michigan citizens.

Now is the time to become a member of the Partners....and become sort of a “founding partner.” The organization is new and looking for new ideas. It may be possible for you to attend meetings by a telephone conference call.

For more information and a membership application, contact Angela Martin in Detroit. Her telephone number is: 313-577-9470, and her email address is: Angela.M.Martin@wayne.edu.

### **Profiles in self-determination**

## **Lives are the best definition**

What defines self-determination? As far as Matthew Arnold of Bay City and Connie Closson of Coldwater are concerned, it’s the “determination” in self-determination that makes the difference.

Both are people with disabilities slotted in categories – “developmental disabilities,” “mentally ill” – and both have risen above labels to achieve independence, not only from being placed in a slot, but within a system that doesn’t necessarily encourage such successes.

Arnold is a chair user who has just never been willing to accept the roadblocks and difficulties that may accompany a disability, particularly roadblocks and difficulties established by community institutions such as school systems.

### ***Mostly grit and attitude***

Arnold has achieved what he believes is a fair measure of self-determination and is an excellent example of what grit and attitude can do to open a few doors. He also admits to some luck along the way, but his successes in choosing his life’s paths and supports must stand for anyone considering the same types of goals leading to the same kinds of achievements.

Where is he now? Arnold works for New Dimensions in Bay City, a rehabilitation facility. He’s worked his path beyond the spinal muscular atrophy that started at birth, through the Bay City school system, and

into this organization. He's been at his post some 28 years and is now a key administrative assistant.

Arnold can't remember when he got a person-centered plan, too long ago he says, but he was in his mid-30s and living with his parents. He says he's always had the supports to establish the directions in which he aimed his life, and he says that aside from simply being determined and not taking "no" for an answer, supports are the most important element in self-determination.

## ***The best choice***

The Bay City native enrolled in the public schools and attended special education classes through the eighth grade. He says that was about the time school systems were thinking about mainstreaming and he was given a choice: remain in the special education system or go into the regular classroom. This was a new thing - giving students with disabilities a choice - back in 1972-73. Arnold took the regular classroom route.

"I had a very difficult transition, not only academically, but socially. It was a big change, I was pretty green. There were big bumps in the road. I had to work three times as hard in school. Couldn't take physical ed classes, so they threw a lot of biology, English and composition at me. By the time I was a junior, I was pretty well schooled."

He says that it was this experience of having to work extra hard and, except for supports, being expected to produce along with everybody else that helped him learn just what self-determination is. "It's learning and growing, it's making mistakes and having some successes, looking for a chance to make a difference, following through on commitments."

## ***Support are important***

"None of it is easy. I just didn't want to be a person sitting around waiting for a check." He believes the difference between achieving self-determination and not realizing it, in addition to some hard work, are the supports that are available to a person.

For Arnold, the realization that no matter who you are, if you want to achieve something, like independence, you have to work hard. He says this is maybe the most important thing he learned in school.

By the time he graduated from Bay City Handy High School in the college prep curriculum, Arnold had "started working at New Dimensions and then hooked up with the people at MRS (Michigan Rehabilitation Services).

"They sent me to the State Technical Institute and Rehabilitation Center (STIRC) in the junior accounting program. But back then, they had no clue about providing supports - it's a big job taking care of a guy like me - so that didn't work out." What Arnold knew as STIRC is now the Michigan Career and Technical Institute, administered by the Michigan Department of Career Development.

## ***No PCP back then***

"At that time, there were a lot of different people there with different types of disabilities and even some from the prison systems. It didn't work out. There wasn't what you'd call a PCP (person-centered plan) back then. I had a meeting with the MRS counselor and that's where they decided they wanted to put me."

Arnold lasted eight weeks living and learning at STIRC. He wasn't about to let a setback deter him from any goals he had set for his life. He returned to New Dimensions intent on a career path. Another goal was to have a home of his own.

Thus Arnold, looked into borrowing the money from his family and was able to move out of his parents' home, thanks in part to a local community supported living program, and into his own house. He says the supports program "brought dollars to folks to help them improve their supports and living arrangements." He credits the program with helping him toward self-determination.

## ***A personal definition***

How does Arnold define self-determination? "Self-determination is an opportunity for people to show that they can be independent, then become independent. One important thing here is for a person to show society that he can be an asset and contribute as a member.

"I like being a member of the community. I pay taxes and am like any other person in my neighborhood. In self-determination is an opportunity for a person to show what they can do with supports. Knock down some barriers in the process.

"It's really a matter of those supports, that's true. But it's also about setting your sights high enough that there's really something to shoot for. You can be surrounded by the freedom of self-determination, and have all the supports in the world, but you don't set some goals and ambition, you won't really take advantage of them."

## ***Connie Closson***

As for Connie Closson, choosing self-determination meant, and still means, moving ahead regardless of the roadblocks and brick walls. Roadblocks such as mental illness.

She was born and raised in Coldwater and still lives there. Between birth and today, Closson traveled a road few others can

really say they share. She is a graduate of Coldwater High School.

Like many of her fellow students, the next stop was marriage and a family. As you might imagine, this was not easy; besides working and having kids, Closson took a plunge into the depths of mental illness, the very current remnants of a very troubled childhood. After her marriage ended, her illness completely took hold of her life and Closson was hospitalized. "I tried to ignore it all, put it all behind me, but all the trouble finally came out at once."

Closson says one reason she fought her illness so hard was the baggage that goes with people's perceptions of a person with mental illness. "I know now it's better to get it out in the open rather than trying to hide. I should have gotten help right away."

## ***Support of family, friends***

Three weeks in the hospital was followed by "a lot of counseling," which continues today. Closson credits friends and family for supporting her determination to succeed. "A lot of people said that because I had been hospitalized, I was lost, wouldn't amount to anything. They told me I would never get out of the (supports) system and people would always have to take care of me."

But Closson was not going to let this element, and the detractors, in her life deter her from pulling herself up and achieving something from it all. After the hospitalization and twenty years after high school, she started college classes.

"I wanted to prove to myself I could do it," she recalled. "That, and strong encouragement from my children, helped me." It was just one step at a time and through relapses, refusing adult foster care, and worrying about class grade points and term papers, Closson managed to get an education, term by term.



Closson completed three programs at Kellogg Community College and has a degree from Tri-State College in Angolola, Indiana, just across the state line. The community college has awarded her a human services tech associates degree, a gerontology certificate, and a general studies degree.

Down at Tri-State College, Closson earned a bachelor of arts (with emphasis on social work) degree – a four-year program – in just two years. She expects to return eventually for her master's in social work.

Closson says she didn't just one day start going to classes full-time. At first, just being out in public, then setting foot on campus and in classrooms with all those strangers, was intimidating. Her reaction was to retreat.

### ***One step at a time***

But slowly, one step at a time, she became accustomed to some the busy life of a college student. "It's a big step for a person with a disability or mental illness. Sometimes I didn't like it, but I would just do it and get it over with and move on to my next goal."

Personal satisfaction and choosing life directions were the results. "On top of that," she recalls, "you just might be the oldest person in the class and that's tough, too. Some of my classmates thought I was going to be their mother!"

Closson made enough of a positive impact at Kellogg Community College that it lists her in its who's who publication. She graduated *cum laude* and is a proud member of the college's National Honor Society chapter.

### ***Proving who's in charge***

That's another major facet of self-determination, she says: proving to yourself,

and others along the way who may not share your same visions, that your life is your own and is full of choices. Which choices you make should be up to you, but you've got to step up and make them, as scary as that might be sometimes.

Another benefit, says Closson, of self-determination as a way of life is the person-center plan – the one that really works. She's had a plan for a number of years, but other people were writing it and doing all the planning. It was only about four years ago, then, that she says she took control of her plan with "great results."

Part of her plan was to start going to church, and now she's a regular most Sundays and Wednesday. "That was also scary, but I made up my mind, walked through the door. Among other things, church is a great learning experience." She also serves as the church's treasurer and social director.

Also at the top of Closson's plan was getting up the nerve "to go out and meet members of the opposite sex." The result? After dating several different guys, she now has a steady boyfriend.

Her person-centered plan even included a change of doctors. "The doctor I had was completely useless and could have less about helping me," she recalls. "'You're ok, see ya in three months,' was all he would do."

### ***Money and membership***

She told the case manager to go down the list and Closson picked a familiar doctor whom she knew would help her. Other facets of her plan include handling her own money matters and house calls from her case manager, and membership in the Self-Advocacy Network.

A major step in her planning involves making lists that weigh the pros and cons of a situation. If there are more cons than pros,

Closson lets go of the idea or objective. She emphasizes that these pros and cons must be a person's own, not those provided by others. What is provided by others, Closson notes, is a working support system, to provide the path when there is none, and encouragement when opening a particular door is the last thing you want to do.

When she sat down to weigh the advantages and fears of starting college, the pros well outweighed the cons by a large margin. Otherwise, Closson would not have the degrees.

She has applied the learning to an extensive array of advocacy work in Branch County. She serves on the board of the Community Resource Center. She is also the president of People First of Branch County. Responsibilities include running meetings and providing taxi service for some of the participants.

Driving and owning her own car was another goal. Part of the taxi service has been getting people registered to vote. People from People First and the local ADAPT day program benefitted from Closson's get-registered-to-vote campaign.

## **Council committee and work group meeting minutes**

### **Education Work Group**

#### ***August 17:***

Members Present: Karen Massaro-Mundt, Jane Reagan, Marta Hampel, Andre Robinson, Mark McWilliams, Sherry Cormier-Kuhn, Lynne Tamor, Jane Spitzley, Glenn Ashley, Bud Kraft

Members Present by Phone: Lauri Stein, Barb Leroy

Welcome and Introductions were done.

#### **Approval of Minutes.**

Jane Reagan moved to approve the June 15, 2004 minutes. Jane Spitzley seconded. Motion approved.

#### **Highly Qualified Teachers**

Highly qualified special education teacher issue was discussed. Early childhood is not covered by the state, because there are no federal requirements for it.

Sherry Cormier-Kuhn moved to write a letter to State Board of Education recommending that while the state is reviewing Highly Qualified Teacher requirements, to add a requirement that general education teachers take special education classes on meeting the needs of special education students in general education classes. Jane Reagan seconded. Motion carried.

This requirement would mirror the requirement that special education teachers take subject matter classes. Sherry will write a draft, and send it to the chairs, Jane R and Mark for comments.

#### **Planning for October 12 DD Council Meeting**

The work group reviewed the draft plan that was prepared by the subcommittee. A priority for all sessions will be accessibility and variety in the format. Additions and changes to the draft are:

First Session – The Vision and Reality.

- Lynne will introduce the plan for the day.
- Karen Massaro-Mundt will do a 5-minute presentation.
- Bradley is available, and will be asked to do a 20 minute presentation.

- Cheryl (mentioned in the draft) has not been contacted, and will not be invited due to time constraints.
- Dave Ruskie (check spelling of name) will be invited to share (10-15 minutes) what he presented at the State Board of Education (SBOE) on the obstacles he faced in seeking inclusion for his daughter.
- Mark will provide 5 minutes on the big picture of the reality, including data from the 2004 report on education inclusion from the Monitoring Center at LSU.
- Lynne will be moderator for the Q&A at the end, introduce the Education Work Group members, and lead into lunch.

#### Lunch Discussion – Our Shared Reality

- Janice Fialka has agreed to be moderator. Work Group members will be facilitators at the table. Janice will talk about the specific tasks of facilitators at the next ED WG meeting.
- Lunches and drinks will be distributed to the people to increase time for sharing. Logistics for lunch, including food selection and room set up will be worked out with Mitzi, who does the ordering for lunch.

#### Second Session – Action Strategies for Promoting Inclusion

- Moderator still needs to be selected.
- Each lunch table will report back with their #1 suggestion of what they would improve in their school experience. Other ideas will be brought back to the ED WG for later consideration.
- Rather than a series of presentations, guests will be invited to be part of a panel discussion. Panel members will have 3-4 minutes to share what they are doing to promote inclusion.
- We need something to distribute, names of the groups, what they are

doing, and who to contact. Perhaps each panelist can bring a one-page flyer. Or send info out after the meeting, with a bunch of resources listed, and web sites, in addition to panelist info.

- A strong moderator will be needed to keep the discussion focused on the key question, “What are the strategies you are using to promote inclusion?”
- The panel needs to include someone from a RICC that is working on education issues, and includes parents/students.

Culmination – Commitment to Action  
Focus needs to be on individuals, RICCs and Council commitment to specific ways to promote inclusion.

For individuals:

- Commit to be part of a large action group to turn out at the capitol, a committee meeting or SBOE meeting.
- Commit to talk with people about the issue of universal education in their community.
- Get to know students with disabilities and their families, share stories.

For RICCs, ideas include:

- Support individuals in carrying out their commitments.
- Discuss universal education at a RICC meeting. Invite a Work Group member to attend their meeting.
- Recruit parents and students to be part of their RICC
- Link adults with disabilities to support students and families at their IEPC.
- Become part of a network of people making changes for children and youth.
- Create links between the RICC and Parent Networks, PACs, etc.

Other ideas/comments.

- Can we get a way to videotape the day so that a video can be prepared to use for advocacy with the state board, and that

RICCs can use to discuss education issues at their meetings? Key contacts – Youth Leadership Forum, Michael Peterson.

- The problem is that the State Board of Education meets on the same day as the Council. Can we do anything about that? Change our meeting date? Could we get a video feed between the two groups for part of the day?

- Should we have something about State Board of Education (SBOE) activities on the agenda?

- How can we present info using a variety of formats?

#### Michigan Dept of Education and SBOE activities

Comment period on proposed rule changes ends 10/13/04.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

Position Statement was changed to a Procedure, so it will not have to go to the State Board for Approval. Initially some people did not understand that there was a connection between UE and LRE, but that connection has been made.

Universal Education referent group report is not completed, and we do not have a target date when a UE policy will be ready for SBOE consideration. It contains one excellent statement: “Honor the rights of all students to learn together”. Prohibiting segregation did not pass; some groups want separate programs because they feel unsafe. One general current in society is the desire to keep people viewed as threatening out of schools.

Our language doesn’t describe the vision very well yet.

#### Education Summit Planning

Discussion focused on how to get funds release to begin planning the summit promptly. The 3 main options are

- Bid out through the RFP process
- Sole source
- Temporary contract staff at the Council

The work group consensus was that the RFP process would put the Summit on hold for at least a year, which is too long to wait.

A sole source contract would require justification for both why and whom. The Work Group agreed to begin development of the sole source justification. Several reasons why a sole source is needed were given, in addition to the delay issue. The success of project depends on phase One, planning and funding commitment. If that is unsuccessful, the Summit would not be held. A three phase RFP does not make sense. Highly specialized expertise is needed.

The first step is to develop a written description of duties and expertise for a sole source consultant/organization. The expertise includes networking, meeting planning, networking contacts, fund raising, and understanding of and commitment to Universal Education. A teleconference call with Sherry, Lynne, Mark and Jane Reagan to develop the written description will be held on Tuesday, August 31 at 2:30.

If a temporary contract staff were employed, the written description of duties and expertise would be the basis for selecting the staff.

#### EWG Work Plan

The work group agreed that the current work plan goals should be included in the plan for the coming year. Members are to review the plan and give comments to Glenn by September 1. Glenn, Karen, and Lynne will meet on Friday, September 3 at 2:00 at Karen’s to compile the work plan.

Sherry moved that a new strategy, to model universal accessibility of meetings, be added to the work plan. Andre seconded the motion, which was approved. There was considerable discussion about the strategy. The group felt strongly that if we are promoting universal education, we have an obligation to assure that the work group and the Council abide by the principles that we expect schools to follow. Two principles that are best practices for Universal Education, accommodation and universal design, drew particular comment. The meeting needs to be accessible for all participants, including RICC consumers. Strategies for supporting participation by all council members need to be identified and implemented. Integrity of the agenda (on time and on topic) and accessibility of the meeting location were also mentioned. The Council needs to develop guidelines for accommodations, supports, and alternative formats, and to structure meetings and materials so they do not have to be retrofitted to accommodate participation. A task force could address these issues.

It was also suggested that the work plan include identification of and plan language development for potential future Education related grant projects for the new 5 year plan. Items related to education from the 7 public forums will be forwarded to the EWG.

EWG Meeting Schedule for 2004-2005  
Jane moved and Marta seconded that Education Work Group meetings be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month except December, from 10:00am to noon for the coming fiscal year. The motion carried. This is the same day the meetings have been held this past year.

## **Education Work Group**

### ***September 21:***

Members Present: Jane Spitzley, Jane Reagan, Mark McWilliams, Marta Hampel, Glenn Ashley, Bud Kraft

Members Present by Phone: Barb Leroy, Lynne Tamor, Lauri Stein, Karen Massaro-Mundt, Sherry Cormier-Kuhn

Guest: Janice Fialka

#### **Welcome, Introductions, and Changes to the Agenda**

Because Fialka was unable to join the meeting at the beginning, discussion of the October 12 Council meeting was moved to later in the agenda.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Reagan moved to approve the minutes of the August 17 meeting. Leroy seconded, and motion was approved.

#### **Update on Education Summit**

Tamor and Ashley updated the group on steps that are needed before contracting with a Summit Coordinator, including a more detailed written description of the summit, assuring that we have potential partners who agree that they are willing and able to pursue Universal Education, and completing the list of criteria for the summit coordinator.

Reagan moved to adopt the Purpose statement from the plan language as the mission for the summit. Massaro-Mundt seconded, and the motion was approved.

Because previous council meetings specified that the Summit itself would not be carried out until match funding was secured, but

allowed for startup funds to build partnerships and secure that match, it is necessary to determine how much money would be needed for each phase of the projects. Council minutes do not specify the breakdown of those funds.

Therefore, Reagan moved to allocate the Summit funding as follows:

Startup – \$35,000 to come up with the money and partnerships.

Carrying out the Summit – up to \$75,000, that must be matched.

Follow-up – \$25,000

With flexibility to move money to follow-up if it is not all expended on summit.

Cormier-Kuhn seconded. Motion carried.

The group discussed the Project Description paragraph by paragraph.

The following were added:

Target date – Late September early October?

Number of people – approximately 100-125.

Duration - 2 days.

Preliminary identification of prongs include

Reference to the Council-approved Plan

Language, which forms the basis of the Summit design.

Reagan moved, and Spitzley seconded, that the Project Description be approved as modified. Motion carried unanimously.

Reagan agreed to present this information to the Executive Committee on Tuesday.

Tamor will be the alternate if Reagan cannot attend.

#### Referent Group update

There was nothing new to report.

#### October 12 Council meeting plans

After considerable discussion, the meeting plan was revised, and the agenda completed. It is attached. The most significant change was elimination of the third lunch discussion and reporting back after lunch, along with allowing a longer time for table groups to complete “Pledge to Promote Inclusion” forms. Public comment time was added.

Stein and Cormier-Kuhn agreed to carry the mikes. Ashley agreed to use the laptop and video projector to display notes to help people with hearing impairments.

The subcommittee will meet with Fialka at the end of the month to tie up loose ends and answer any questions.

#### EWG work plan

Work group members are asked to send comments to Ashley by 9/30, who will circulate the workplan with any suggested changes to the work group, for approval at the next meeting.

#### Other

The chairs requested that Council staff provide them with an updated contact list for the Work Group.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

## **Family Support Work Group**

### ***August 18***

Members Present: Vera Graham, Audrey Craft, Marianne Huff, Carolyn Allston-Smith, Bud Kraft, Laura Mahank, Randy Krause (phone)

Welcome and Introductions were done.

Carolyn Allston-Smith motioned to approve the June 18, 2004 minutes. Vera Graham seconded. Motion approved.

#### Money Follows the Person

Refer to handout that was distributed to the group. Page four of the handout gives highlights on the first slide. The mission is “To provide members the opportunity to pool their resources, power and collective voice; to maximize the amount and quality of benefits and supports they select.” It would take legislators and policy changes to implement in Michigan.

Long-term care is mandated with few community and home care options existing. Average net cost = \$5,000/month.

Michigan has a pilot program but not a mandated requirement. Medicaid Long Term Care Task Force looking for ideas, input, options. Single Point of Entry and Aging and Disability Resource Centers are part of the long-term care changes. Twelve separate groups looking at long-term care.

The Mental Health Coalition needs to hear from families with developmental disabilities because they are still focusing on the mental illness population. Some cases are dually diagnosed.

Review and Development of Respite Flyer  
The goal is to make respite services a Medicaid covered program and offer an array of services.

(b)(3) used to be alternative services and has been submitted to CMS for approval. The grant is doing a feasibility study of an array of respite services and the cost.

The development of implementation services is the next step. The flyer is an effort to do this.

The flyer targeted at primarily families and consumers. It would notify families and help define parameters and how to access.

What circumstances make consumers eligible for different varieties of respite would need to be defined.

Bud discussed the seven upcoming community forums throughout the state. He thanked the department for assisting in sending over 6,000 flyers to family support subsidy families.

Over the year, collaboration between schools and CMH has weakened.

Medicaid should make a more consistent array of services available statewide.

To obtain respite services, the request must be in an Individual Family Service Plan.

There is a tradeoff: Amount, scope and duration and medical necessity limits will be imposed in order to manage the CMH cap.

Families will now have a Medicaid fair hearing process available.

Funding at the CMH boards will impact the number of hours available and cost. CMH boards make decisions on fund distribution among programs.

Subcommittee initially discussed of Bud, Vera, Audrey and Randy the flyer and content.

Communication needs to come down to supports coordinator too, so they are aware of alternatives.

Individual plan of service determines how much of person-centered planning is achieved through services outside of CMH.

The flyer design should be fairly friendly, and medical necessity will be a requirement to obtain services. Families will now have a right to fair Medicaid hearing.

Analogies (buying school clothes) might be helpful in the flyer.

Safety – background checks will be done.

Can do/can't do list would be good in the flyer.

In order to increase participation in the FSWG, send a letter to work groups and committees and RICCs asking to participate on the FSWG, as primary, or secondary consumers and interested others. State in the letter: We need you!

Resource Guide for family support.  
Marianne Huff will send publications.

#### **FSWG Work Plan**

Comments are due by August 27. Please send your comments to Tracy Vincent at [vincenttr@michigan.gov](mailto:vincenttr@michigan.gov) or fax them to 517-334-7353.

Next meeting is September 15 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

For the 2004-2005 year, the meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month. There will be no December meeting.

## **Family Support Work Group**

***Sept. 15***

Members Present: Vera Graham, Audrey Craft, Laura Mahank, Bud Kraft, Rick Van Horn, Randy Krause (phone)

Welcome and introductions were done.

August 18, 2004 minutes were approved after two corrections were made.

The respite flyer was discussed.

Areas where respite can be provided and not provided were reviewed.

Respite can now be provided as a Medicaid covered service. This provides a right to a Medicaid Fair Hearing process for the family.

Study of difference between families who do and don't receive respite. This may be a possible project to consider in the future.

Send the flyer to:

- Families
- CMHSPs
- Family Independence Agency
- Conferences
- Arc
- United Cerebral Palsy
- Family Support Subsidy recipients

Use tri-fold format.

Respite are Medicaid covered service.

Need to check on age criteria.

Discussion of content of flyer

Respite services may be available for your family if your family member meets medical necessity criteria, the need for respite is identified through a person-centered process and identified in an individual plan of service, and Medicaid eligible.



If interested and think you may qualify, call your local CMHSP (Community Mental Health Services Programs).

Reasons respite may be a benefit for your family:

- assist in maintaining your family member in the home
- assist with socialization with peers
- assist with community integration
- a break from caring for your child
- time with other family members
- time for your self

If respite services are denied, reduced for suspended, you have the right to appeal through a Medicaid Fair Hearing Process.

Your CMHSP will provide information about this process.

Sheri Falvay will be reviewing for content.

Note that alternative formats are available by calling the Council office.

Draft will be sent to members and the comments will need to be forwarded to Bud.

Next Meeting: October 20 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Council office.

## **Public Policy Committee**

### ***Aug. 10:***

Members Present: Jane Spitzley, Pam Hall, Andre Robinson, Elmer Cerano, Robyn Saylor, Jane Reagan, Terry Hunt, Bud Kraft, Tandy Bidinger

#### **Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of June 8, 2004 Minutes
3. State Planning Process – Bud Kraft
4. State of Michigan Legislative Updates/Budget (Revenue Enhancements)
5. Medicaid: Home Help Advocacy Efforts
6. Federal Updates:
  - Transportation Reauthorization
  - MiCASSA
  - No Child Left Behind
  - IDEA
  - Medicare Prescription Program
7. PPC Work Plan – Begin New Plan
8. Medicaid LTC Task Force
9. Michigan Quality Community Care Council – Guest Speaker Dohn Hoyle
10. Other

Welcome and Introductions were done.

Jane Spitzley was acting chair until Chair Andre Robinson arrived.

Pam motioned to approve the June 8, 2004 minutes with corrections. Reagan seconded. Motion carried.

#### **State Planning Process**

Bud discussed the State Planning Process. There are 7 meetings being held throughout the state. Information gathered from the meetings will be brought back to Council, work groups and committees re: work plans/projects.

RICC/community input is critical. Key issues will be covered at state planning meetings; and develop strategies for advocacy. Self-advocacy training is needed.

#### **Money Follows the Person**

People control the dollars that are available to them.

#### Mental Health Commission

DD issues not covered. Needs a total overhaul of system, not just tweaking. Consumers need to be more involved. Grants – do they really help consumers? Employees of CMH need training and support.

#### Leadership Development

Leadership by persons with disabilities (1<sup>st</sup> step) related to our grant. DDC role is to nurture the future leaders, RICC members, etc. and maintain momentum and energy. Look forward (30 years).

#### State of Michigan Legislative Updates

38 open House seats, US Congress, etc.

#### Upcoming elections to watch.

#### Revenue Enhancements – Tobacco Tax

Seniors/persons with disabilities are advocating but not always together. Aging dollars come from different resources – different population, demographics. In medical ethics/disability issues (euthanasia/assisted death) the disability and aging groups may not agree. Budget issues have an impact on economic decisions. In the future, we can expect to see rationing of dollars/services in Medicaid and other programs. Discussed watching video at future PPC meeting of similar policy decisions made in Germany.

#### Home Help Advocacy Efforts

Home Help numbers of hours will be cut. An example regarding advocacy, having consumers on CMH boards has not improved services everywhere. The consumer should have control over what/where they receive services. Help people become self-advocates. Leadership Development teaches people to be self-advocates.

#### No Child Left Behind

Our children left behind – due to inadequate funding /lack of qualified teachers. See 2004 May issue of Gentlemen's Quarterly article regarding Child Left Behind ("Log Cabin" Republicans).

#### Medicaid LTC Task Force

Institutional bias problem; way to shift dollars. Has had three meetings – work groups are beginning.

Reagan motioned that the PPC write a short letter regarding revenue enhancements ASAP. Cerano seconded. Motion approved.

#### PPC Work Plan – Begin New Plan

A sub-committee was formed to discuss the PPC work plan. A meeting date and time will be decided upon.

#### Michigan Quality Community Care Council – Speaker Dohn Hoyle

An advocacy committee wrote a letter to the Governor to start the Michigan Quality Community Care Council group.

Refer to handout that was distributed to the group. The purpose of the public authority is to provide improved access to qualified direct care workers and to support both consumers and workers in achieving quality outcomes.

#### Three principles guide the QCCC:

1. Governed primarily by consumers and advocates.
2. Ensure the right of the consumer to select, retain, direct, and fire community care workers.
3. Support workers in order to promote competence, achieve quality consumer outcomes, and improve worker retention through improving job satisfaction.

Functions of the QCCC include:

Registry – consumers can still hire persons who are not on the registry

Background checks

Provide certain employer function for approximately 44,000 care workers

Provide backup services by qualified workers

Address barriers to direct care employment

Questions regarding involvement of the S.E.I.U. union in the group. Don Hoyle stated that they are not currently involved in the QCCC. They may attempt to unionize workers in the future.

Other

ADA Anniversary

## **Public Policy Committee**

### ***Sept. 14:***

#### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of August 10, 2004 Minutes
3. State Planning Process Update on Forums – Bud Kraft
4. State of Michigan Legislative Updates/Budget (Revenue Enhancements)
5. Medicaid:
  - Home Help Advocacy Efforts
6. Federal Updates:
  - Transportation Reauthorization
  - MiCASSA
  - No Child Left Behind
  - IDEA
  - Medicare Prescription Program
7. PPC Work Plan – Begin New Plan
8. 2004 Elections

9. Medicaid LTC Task Force
10. Michigan Quality Community Care Council
11. Mental Health Commission
12. Other

Members Present: Jane Spitzley, Todd Koopmans, Duncan Wyeth, Jane Reagan, Andre Robinson, Pam Hall, Tom Stegeheis, Robyn Saylor, Rick Van Horn, Terry Hunt, Tracy Vincent, Bud Kraft, Tandy Bidinger

Welcome and Introductions were done.

Robyn motioned to approve the August 10, 2004 minutes, Pam seconded, motion approved.

#### **State Planning Process**

The town forum meetings are being held across the state to get consumer input on the DD Council's 2007 – 2011 State Plan. At each meeting, Family Support, Education, Transportation, Employment, Housing and Recreation are discussed. People who fill out a registration form will receive the summary of the meeting they attended. The data gathered will be taken back to the work group and committees.

There were 75 in attendance at Gaylord Town Forum meeting, 42 at Houghton and 50 at Newberry. The upcoming meetings are: 9/17, Detroit; 9/20 Saginaw and 10/5 East Lansing.

#### **Home Help**

There are a set number of hours for helping with shopping, laundry, etc. Consumers need to go through an exception process to get this changed. Governor had Department of Community Health respond to the letter. The ultimate result may be lawsuits.

### Federal Legislation

Duncan mentioned that an extension on Assistive Technology, IDEA, transportation – an act on any of these in the next 12 days is not likely. There is gridlock in congress.

### No Child Left Behind

Issues with adequate annual progress. There is also an issue regarding highly qualified teachers. The schools have to do improve each year. If not, they may be called a failing school. Each state establishes what criteria to use.

### Medicare Prescription Program

The program was rolled out over the last several months. Some people are taking advantage of the program, however it is an extremely confusing process. The program is very beneficial to low income families. It is the advocate's job to get the word out.

The program is a controversial issue. The legislators were not given accurate information at the time they were voting on it. If they had all of the information they may have voted against it. The program is not beneficial to everyone, such as many middle class people.

### PPC Work Plan

A small group had a separate meeting to review the work plan. Overall, they were satisfied with the general strategies. Tandy is compiling all of the notes/comments and then will be emailed to the group. A vision statement will be added on the work plan.

The work plan is focused more on grassroots advocacy. The PPC needs more people to participate. Suggest to other work group/committee members to come to a meeting to see what the PCC is about.

Pam stated that the work plan should go to the Multicultural Committee before it is

presented to the Council. The PPC will approve the work plan first, then it will go to the Multicultural Committee for approval and then will be forwarded onto the Council.

We will email a draft to the group prior to the next meeting on October 12. If we do not hear anything, we will assume that it is fine. It will be forwarded to the Multicultural Group on October 11.

### IDEA

IDEA was passed through the House at the federal level and put in Conference Committee. It was not announced who is on their committee. We hope that no action will be taken. If they take any action it will be negative impact on family and disability students. Some changes in the new version are worse than the '97 version. Advocates prefer to leave as is, just give more funding, and enforce it.

Duncan stated that there is a Disability Caucus on 10/6. It was suggested to hand out a PPC flyer at the meeting to invite people to come to the PPC meetings. It was also suggested to invite a member from each work group/committee to come. We also need outside people to participate.

There is a meeting at the local Arc on September 16 at 1:00. Someone from the DD Council should attend to see what the Arc is doing on policy of governmental activities.

The question was asked if anyone is going to participate in the Governmental Affairs Seminar in Washington this year on February 28 – March 2. Staff will look into it and get back with the group.

### Medicaid Long-Term Task Force

Tandy is on Work Group A which is Single Point of Entry and Person Centered Planning

group. A preliminary report will be given to the Governor in October. They recommend a single point of entry for long term care. It is a phased-in plan and will eventually go statewide. People often do not end up in long term care unless a crisis happens. The goal would be to get everyone in the system to get information to people in an early phase.

Long Term Care – Medicaid requirement is that the state offer nursing home care. The next meeting of the task force is in October. They encourage people to attend to give public testimony.

#### 2004 Elections

Every two years, the US House of Reps election comes up. Rotate Senators.

A question was asked: What resources are available on voting rights of people with disabilities? They can contact local CIL or local clerk's office. Another resources is Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Kyle Dubuc at 248-473-2990.

#### Michigan Quality Care Council

No additional information to report.

#### Mental Health Commission

Dealing with Mental Illness side of funding. They are asking for comments this month. Individuals are encouraged to provide testimony and write letters. Policy has to be redone on the DD side as well as for individuals who are dually diagnosed. The preliminary report is due at the end of the month to the Governor.

Jane Reagan is on the Advisory Committee on Mental Illness. The group wants substantive changes to be made and want the Mental Health Commission to make strong changes. They wrote letters to the commission.

#### Other

For Fiscal Year 2004-05, the PPC meetings that do not fall on Council days will be held at the Arc, 1325 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

The next meeting is October 12, 2004 from 8:30am – 10:30am at the State Capitol Building, Committee Room 427, Lansing, MI.

### **Transportation Work Group**

#### ***Aug. 12:***

##### Members Present

St. Ignace: Judi Brown, Tom Brown, Brenda Shoenbottom, Gidget Bennett, Amber Shampo, Bud Bebee, Clark Harder, Diane Kempen, Sue Parent, Paula Yanta, Tonee Therrian, Margi Cano, Jacqueline Mahlar, Ophelia Tang (Guest), Tandy Bidinger

L'Anse: Terry Nankervis, Anita White, Patty Putala, Carl Meatila, Mick Sheridan, Darcie Sereno, Lola Mariacher

Lansing: Kevin Wisselink

Welcome and introductions were done.

June 10, 2004 minutes were approved by consensus.

##### Legislative Updates

Discussed term limits. There will be large number of new representatives after election. Comprehensive Transportation Fund is up for discussion/debate. Racino (casino) proposed as a way to help budget shortfall. Federal reauthorization – not done yet. There is an extension.

Public transportation budget could still be cut. This would reduce public transportation. Letters to legislators are needed to preserve public transportation; please don't cut CTF public transportation. Contact MI Association of County Commissioners asking them to support MI Association County proposal. Kevin stated that Federal reauthorization may not get through this legislative season.

Visit MDOT's website at [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot) regarding money Michigan is losing.

The Oscoda RICC met with Senator Tony Stamas June 11. He said that transportation is not moving. Stamas suggests the TWG write Governor Granholm regarding public transportation. Sen. Stamas is on the appropriations and transportation committees.

We continue to hear that Senator Shirley Johnson feels Detroit public transit is mismanaged.

TWG will write a letter to Governor Granholm with a cc to Janet Olszewski with concerns about possible public transportation cuts. Individual letters should also be sent to legislators.

Most Upper Peninsula legislators seem to be supportive of public transportation.

Success Stories  
Millages are one way to get public transportation started. Local millages seem to have public support. They have passed except for Manistee.

Local areas are planning the Local Transportation Millage Campaigns.

Transportation Voucher

(RFP will be out in the fall – update)

United We Ride – coordination. At the state level now.

Mackinaw County – Amy Terrian is a new RICC leader. Tonnee will have more time to focus on transportation issues.

Jackson is holding a Transportation Summit on September 17.

TWG Work Plan

Vouchers

Fraud concern

Mick Sheridan talked with Dr. Seekins – one problem is that consumers thought the vouchers were regular checks.

Education/training is essential. Voucher system must not supplant existing transportation. Medicaid: transportation is possible, but there are regional differences.

Tonnee said that Mackinaw County may apply for the voucher pilot.

Judi stated that Montmorency may also be interested in the voucher.

Isaac, Mozes, Ezekial, Faith in Motion:  
Faith based transit advocacy groups. One technique they use it to set up interview with a person, example Gloria Jeff. One person interviews her, one person takes notes. One on one; keep notes/notebooks. Question was raised: What would they be used for? Possibly newspaper articles. Other ideas for interview subjects: City Commissioner, mayors, transit systems, etc.

New Work Plan Ideas

1. Strengthen LACs and RICCs connection
2. Statewide TWG presence in transportation advocacy

3. Impact/awareness of Land Use policies
4. Implement voucher program
5. Strengthen and expand alliances to other groups working on transportation

Resources:

ISDs

MPTA

Local Chamber of Commerce

All levels of government (local, municipal, state, federal)

Tonee will compile a list of who is in her local area.

Staff: Regional meetings are popular. Some consumers want to get paid a stipend for attending meetings. Is this an option?

Luce RICC: Problem: public transportation doesn't run on weekends.

Ophelia stated that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Chippewa has a good transit system for the elderly.

#### MPTA "Let's Get Moving"

Clark Harder discussed "Let's get moving". MPTA: umbrella coalition working with A.T.U. Union.

1. Wants to change from reacting to legislation (defensive). Be pro-active. We can join as individuals, but get on email list – donations excepted. TWG did join.

2. Pro-transportation legislators wants to form a legislative caucus but the problem is term limits. Jerry Kooiman is the chair and they will begin meeting in the fall.

3. PR Campaign – Rossman Firm. "Primer on Transportation" by 10/1/04. Educate legislator – raise it as a legislative issue.

Also project Statewide Transit Lobby. There will be an action item at the September meeting, asking for the DD Council to join.

Gas prices are going up and that affects public transportation. It is a political issue. Example: Ophelia: In London, England – there is a tax on cars.

A member stated that most legislators don't know that there is public transportation in their county.

Kevin Wisselink will get a notice ready regarding MPTA "Let's Get Moving" Coalition for the RICCs. The TWG will send joining forms and handouts. Judi Brown will do a Montmorency RICC fundraiser.

We need to tell the new legislators about our caucus. Need to send "Getting There Manual" along with Diane's sample letter.

The members like having the TWG meeting in the UP. They would like to see having more TWG meetings around the state.

Invite legislators and transit providers to next meeting.

Next Meeting: September 9 from 10:00 a.m. – noon at the DD Council Office.

\*Transportation themed DD Council meeting is September 14, 2004, from 10:30am – 4:00pm at the State Secondary Complex, General Office Building, 7150 Harris Drive, Lansing.

## **Transportation Work Group**

### ***Sept. 9:***

Members Present: Diane Kempen, Bud Beebe, Kathie Janego, Michelle Walker, Stu Lindsay, Tandy Bidinger, Gerry Forte, Angel Fandialan

Baraga: Paul Reverender, Don Milbeck  
Newaygo: Jacquelyn Johnson, Cathy Holt, Sheryl Johnson, Amy Kurtii  
Eastern UP: Tonee Therrian  
Montmorency: Kathryn Johnson, Barbara Johnson, Judi Brown, Carol LaClair

Welcome and Introductions were done, several new members/groups were present.

Minutes from the August 11, 2004 meeting were approved.

Legislative Update: Federal and State Issues were covered, with a focus on the budget. The State of Michigan's budget for 2005 is reported to be finished, however, we don't know yet what impact it will have on transportation. Federal reauthorization efforts continue. Advocacy efforts are still needed, in order to protect the funding for public transportation. It was suggested that members begin to advocate now for future year's budgets.

Members have several success stories: Tonee Therrian of St. Ignace sent legislators' Sikkema and Johnson letters, and will send the TWG copies. Everyone agreed the St. Ignace meeting was a great success.

Kathy Janego reported that Livingston County had a very successful ARC Legislative Luncheon last year, which helped them to build relationships between

the legislators and advocates. Minutes from their Transportation coalition meetings are sent to legislators, who have been attending the meetings. They are also working to find additional funds to continue their work after the DD Council grant expires.

New member Don Milbeck of Kalamazoo used public transportation, but it was not always available when he needed rides. Due to advocacy efforts, he got a "Metrovan" pass, and is now able to get evening and weekend transportation. The Disability Resource Center was helpful in his efforts. He is now able to attend meetings re: public transportation!

Newaygo is planning to attend the LAC meeting in January, which is their annual meeting. The law only requires that LAC's meet annually.

Stu Lindsay reported that the Delta County RICC is conducting a Transportation needs survey.

Collaboration with other groups: United We Ride is working to break down barriers between governmental agencies, federal and state. Diane discussed ISAAC, which is a faith based group working on Transportation Advocacy. They are having a September 16, 2004 Transportation Summit. The TWG recently joined with MPTA in their new Coalition, "Let's Get Moving".

We are getting much better RICC/consumer participation in the TWG this year, and have been adding teleconference sites.

An update on the LAC Survey from Kevin: It is ready to go, and the TWG decided to mail it out to RICC and TWG members in Sept. Don volunteered to help tabulate the survey results.



We learned that Saginaw is having a transportation crisis, and we will try to connect with the RICC in the area.

We would also like to be kept informed about local public transportation millages. In Kalamazoo a millage was recently successful, after consumer advocates passed out flyers at bus stops!

The Baraga and Oscoda RICC's have planned a joint meeting to discuss the DDC's transportation voucher pilot project. Tandy mentioned that she had some articles regarding voucher programs in other states, and several members requested the information: Oscoda, Montmorency, Kalamazoo (to Don), and Gerry of Detroit. Angel asked if we have any other's RFP for voucher programs.

We have been discussing revisions to our work plan for the new fiscal year. Basically, our strategies remain the same, but we are "fine-tuning" and "doing it better". We do need more volunteer TWG member to sign up for some of the activities in the work plan. Several members volunteered for new assignments. Kathie Janego will work on Strategy #1, the last activity. Gerry Forte has volunteered to help also. Don also agreed to help.

There are several upcoming transit related conferences, which various TWG members are involved in: the Elderly Mobility Conference which is being held in Sept. in Detroit, a Kalamazoo Transportation Summit in September, and the Michigan Rehabilitation Conference in November in Traverse City. Everyone is encouraged to attend these events, if possible.

Geraldine "Gerry" Forte is involved in transportation brokerage in the "downriver" area of Detroit. She and Stu Lindsay are

willing to discuss brokerage at a future meeting. Another person suggested was Judi Brown Clarke of F.I.A., who also has expertise in this area.

We made final plans for our "Transportation themed" DD Council meeting to be held 9/14/04. Diane, Tandy and Kevin will be the main presenters for the TWG, with additional presentations by the Kalamazoo area advocates and the Oscoda RICC. TWG members were encouraged to attend.

The group has decided to keep the same meeting schedule for the next fiscal year, beginning October 1. We will be meeting on the second Thursday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon, at the DDC office.

## **Multicultural Committee**

### ***Aug. 9:***

I. Call to Order – 10:07

II. Approval of Minutes – Motion by Vera, seconded by Pam

III. Approval of Agenda – action item – added new business items per Vera, Mitzi

IV. Introductions – Members welcomed new member, Tricia, from SILC.

V. Old Business

A. Potential RICC partnerships and letter to RICCs – up-date – Larry/Mitzi

Next steps: Unknown – Mitzi will check.

B. Lansing Mayor's Initiative on Race and Diversity – up-date - Mitzi

Next steps: This is an on-going series of discussions

that are on specific topics. Information will not feed back to the Mayor's office, but members may come away with a broader perspective. Mitzi will share the book with members.

### C. Work Plans

1. Other committees/workgroups and our feedback on this year's

Mitzi

Next steps: Mitzi will develop and send letter from Committee Chair requesting that plans be reviewed for diversity/inclusion before Council approves them this year.

Committee members' involvement with other committees/workgroups  
-various members

Next steps: Angie reports the Education Work Group will include language regarding cultural diversity in its work plan for next year. Pam reports that the Transportation Committee has work plan that is culturally sensitive; next year's plan also includes sensitivity to rural-specific issues. Pam stated she was also involved in the most recent round of grant reviews and many applications were lacking in cultural diversity/inclusiveness language. Yuself will be attending the Housing Work Group's September meeting.

3. Our work plan for next year

Next steps: – Terry brought a draft of the plan based on the discussion at the June meeting. It was distributed and will be discussed at the September meeting. It is due to Council in October.

### VI. New Business

- A. Annual Diversity Celebration – Vera suggested that the Committee plan an annual month-long diversity celebration/information program.

It was decided that the first year, it may be best to send out information regarding specific racial/ethnic groups in Michigan to the Council on a weekly basis throughout the designated month, to meet with each work group and committee once to discuss their content area and its relationship/importance to culturally diverse people, and to then close the month with a special program at the full Council meeting.

Next steps: This discussion will continue at the next committee meeting.

B: RICC Multicultural Conference/Training with Outreach Theme – Mitzi reported that there will be a RICC event which will include a focus on outreach to culturally diverse persons. The committee has been asked to assist in providing topics, materials, and so forth.

Next steps: Members will bring suggested materials and topics to the next committee meeting.

C: Acting as a Resource to other DD Council Groups – Mitzi reports that other committees and work groups are asking for the contact information for specific persons from culturally diverse backgrounds who can be called upon as facilitators/presenters, group members and so forth. We had discussed developing such a list before. The Committee members agreed to help with the development of such as list, and with the distribution of materials intended to

identify new persons who could serve in these roles.

Next steps: Members will provide contact information on an on-going information for staff to include in a data base. Staff will provide materials for members to take to other meetings to bring in new people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

D. Christo Rey Health Fair – Mitzi reported that the Health Fair will be held on 9/25/04. She will be developing a one-page flyer for distribution there.

Next steps: Committee members who are able to be at the booth for some time during the day are asked to inform Mitzi.

#### VII. Up-dates and Announcements:

Organizational up-dates and announcements;

contacts/activities with other groups related to Committee goals; new

consultant/provider contacts with multicultural expertise; conferences/seminars/etc.

relevant to Committee goals/activities/members

VIII. Next meeting: Monday, September 13, 2004, 9:30 – noon, Council offices

IX. Adjourn – Moved by Vera, seconded by Yuself.

## **Multicultural Committee**

### ***Oct. 11:***

Present: Yuself Seegars (phone), Pam Hall, Vera Graham, Rick Van Horn, Andre

Robinson (phone), Angie Zamora, Larry Betz, and Corrie Bair.

Call to Order by Graham.

Approval of Minutes – Graham moved to accept the September minutes, Hall seconded. Passed.

Additions to and Approval of October Agenda – Passed as written, Graham's motion, Robinson seconded.

#### Introductions

Old Business – Robinson noted the info sheet from the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities – “Cultural Competence” – in the committee's most recent mail. Purpose of the document is unknown and will be taken up at the November meeting.

Another document in the most recent member mailing is a sample of the committee's brochure. Van Horn explained that it was written by Mitzi Allen and produced in time for the Cristo Rey Health Fair on Sept. 25 in Lansing, and the Council's town forum in East Lansing on Oct. 5.

Van Horn pointed out that the brochure has not been approved by the Executive Committee, so the copy mailed to Multicultural Committee members is considered a “draft” copy. Robinson said to put the brochure back on the agenda for November discussion and voting. Hall wished to make special mention of Graham's diligence in pushing for a committee brochure.

Betz voiced approval for the brochure and particularly liked the list of “barriers toward participation” on page 2: 1. Zero access to

information in one's native language; 2. Failure of service systems to understand specific cultures; 3. Failure on the part of service systems to go to the population; and 4. Lack of trust.

In the absence of the committee chair, members agreed to table Terry Lerma's "Committee's Work Plan for '05-'06." The committee also tabled agenda item V-B - "Development of Data Base" - in the absence of Allen.

Regarding the committee's "Action Plan by month" - the two items for October - "1. Identify potential topics for Retreat Presentation," and "2. Finalize Action Plan for coming year," were tabled in the absence of the chairperson.

Review of work plans. The committee chair should review the work plan recommendations. Pam Hall said should the committee be unavailable to sign and send the work plan recommendations, she would do so as acting chair.

Item V-D, other work plans. The committee began its work plan review with the Program Committee's. Larry Betz said he senses a real commitment from the committee to broadening the cultural input. He also sees a need to develop proactive strategies and cited the Multicultural Committee's brochure's list of four barriers - 1. Zero access to information in one's native language; 2. Failure of service systems to understand specific cultures; 3. Failure on the part of service systems to go to the population; and 4. Lack of trust. - especially number three - to show that the committee must go to the people. If people do not feel welcome in a program or are not aware of it, that is our problem. The list of four barriers, Betz said, strongly reflects the

Multicultural Committee's beliefs about what needs changing.

In the first strategy - Oversight of active grants - under the "Activities" heading....like to see something there that says "Are the grantees looking at serving a diverse population, are they looking at attempts at inclusion?" Betz also noted the strategy "5-year cycle for review of the grant program" - in reviewing RFPs see that they, too, foster increased diversity of input.

Betz also called for insuring diversity among grant applicants, both in terms of leadership as well as populations-served. A good model for such things are the requirements of government contractors from the Office of Federal Contract Compliance - certified equal opportunity employer, etc. Betz can assist with certification language. Are there local groups - NAACP, churches, Urban League, etc. - that can be contacted regarding grants they may be able to apply for? An example is a Fair Housing Center, such as the kind that just closed in Jackson. Recruit grantees. Go to the people.

Bair discussed the Program Committee's grant writing academy and its efforts to address diversity in grant awarding.

Pam Hall is glad there is finally something in the Program Committee's work plan dealing with diversity (strategy "Committee Membership & Workplan" - activity "Recruit diverse Prog Cttee" on page 4). She agrees with Betz that seeking diversity should be interwoven throughout the plan. Move the commitment to diversity from the bottom of page 4 up and throughout the plan.

Members agreed the Program Committee is off to a great start in moving toward cultural recognition and diversity in its activities.

The work plan is the result of a lot of effort and is very well organized.

Transportation Work Group's work plan is comprehensive and well thought out. Betz expressed concern in addressing transportation problems and accessibility in Detroit. The plan needs to contain a commitment to work with urban coalitions in many Michigan cities to address those problems.

What about a mini-grant application from an organization in Detroit, Flint, Saginaw – a city where there is a substantial urban minority population – that would train testers, much like housing orgs do, and report on monitored shortfalls in transit services in those cities (“mystery riders”)?

Andre Robinson agreed the Transportation Committee needs to look aggressively at the particular needs of people of color in the state's urban centers. Yuself Seegars noted the most urgent transportation problems in the tri-county area are outside the City of Detroit.

Graham noted that an upcoming RFP generated by the Transportation Committee deals with a system of transit vouchers. Pam Hall said the RFP for this grant should make it clear that these vouchers are available in areas heavily populated by minorities. Imagine putting out a transportation voucher program in an area where there are few, if any, minorities! There has to be outreach in this transportation grant program. The model voucher program appears in the work plan under strategy 4 – “Be a resource and support system to DDC staff and voucher grantees.” The activity is titled “Model voucher program in at least three counties.”

Bair referred to the plan's page 6 and the strategy that continues there, “State-wide Council and Transportation Work Group presence in transportation advocacy..., under the activity “Provide grassroots advocacy mobilization on a statewide basis for transportation issues,” and its barrier “Include urban areas with no transit, one urban and one rural system for initial trial run.” – Multicultural Committee members recognize this is an issue in the state's urban centers and it should be addressed in the work plan. Then say “we want to put it in a voucher system, we want to put it in grassroots advocacy, etc. There is a great need for outreach.

In referring to the plan language, Betz pointed out that traditionally when advocates say “statewide” that is a code word for “If they want to come, let ‘em,” rather than “Let's go out and find some people of color who may not know about us. Let's get them plugged into the system.” The committee knows this is the intention of the work group, but such intentions should be spelled out in writing in the work plan.

The committee liked the word “mobilization” in the activity as another way of saying, “Get out and see the people.” The committee also commended the Transportation Work Group for its strategy on p. 9 – in part “Cross Cultural and socio-economic lines to form alliances with other groups who are also work on transportation,” and the activity “Joint meeting with Multicultural Committee,” and barriers of attitudes, open discussion and involving faith-based groups in their efforts.

Hall noted that like other organizations, the Transportation Work Group should seek input from organizations other than the Multicultural Committee, as mentioned in the work plan on p. 9 – “Seek assistance

from the Multicultural Committee.” There are plenty of minority-based organizations out there to confer with.

The committee is very willing to work with the work group, but should not be seen as the sole collaborator.

In considering the Education Work Group’s work plan, the committee was surprised there was no reference to outreach or cultural diversity in matters of education. Betz suggested incorporating outreach to people of color in each of the five plan strategies.

Specifically, he referred to strategy A; a fourth activity can be added there – efforts by grantees to include and address multicultural issues.

Hall thought the strategy D – Universal Education Summit – echoed previous committee discussions in not reflecting outreach of any sort....instead, the scope is “universal” and “statewide” – non-specific language - and carries the message, “If they find out about it, let them come to us,” rather than going into communities where Universal Education is equally important but that are populated by people who will not make it to the summit. Betz pointed out this is largely the attitude of disability service delivery and advocacy systems in general.

The committee agreed to turn down the Education Work Group’s work plan. Back to the drawing board for some outreach.

Otherwise, perhaps the work group should not receive Council money for summits and other activities. Betz again said the list of four barriers from the Multicultural Committee’s brochure - 1. Zero access to information in one’s native language; 2. Failure of service systems to understand

specific cultures; 3. Failure on the part of service systems to go to the population; and 4. Lack of trust. – be included in the next rewrite of the plan.

The committee is willing to meet with the work group to offer suggestions for their plan.

For the Housing Work Group work plan, the committee wondered at the difference between a work group and a task group. A task group may also be a subcommittee. The committee noted there is no reference to community outreach in matters of housing for people with disabilities of all colors and cultures.

Angie Zamora noted that under the plan’s fourth strategy – “Develop direct strategies & other input to the Council” – there is the activity, “Explore opportunities to expand access to housing & to housing supports & services for pw/dd & other vulnerable populations.” She wondered if among those populations who are vulnerable are minority populations/dd who also desire housing supports and services. Betz said this may also refer to a person with a mental illness who requires a companion animal. Committee members agreed that some minority people, and those minorities with disabilities, might not wish to be placed in the “other vulnerable populations” slot.

The Housing Work Group work plan was not accepted because it does not reflect outreach. Committee members are willing to meet with the work group to provide assistance.

The committee then reviewed the work plan of the Public Policy Committee. Betz first noted the phrase, “pertinent communities of interest” in the plan’s first strategy (“Shape broad policies for DD Council

consideration....”) and said he was not comfortable with it.

The plan’s key strategy is number 4, and appears on pp. 10 and 11 – “The PPC will address vital issues that adversely affect persons with disabilities within minority cultures.” Betz said that was the best plan language he had seen so far. The barriers listed are useful and realistic.

Betz and Hall also felt the “barriers toward participation” that appear in the Multicultural Committee’s brochure - 1. Zero access to information in one’s native language; 2. Failure of service systems to understand specific cultures; 3. Failure on the part of service systems to go to the population; and 4. Lack of trust. – could be incorporated into the PPC work plan’s identified barriers. That might help define “pertinent communities of interest,” which should be changed.

The committee cited the PPC for its good work on the plan. It approved the projected outcomes and the activities and resources to be used to achieve those outcomes. Hall suggested adding “faith-based” to the resources found under strategy 1 and listed on p. 3 (“RICCs, MDRC,” etc.).

That concluded the work plan review. The committee noted that the Family Support and the Health Issues work plans had not been received. Members also discussed the committee’s own work plan and concern about the Council’s understanding of outreach issues and the key questions behind them:

1. Does the Council understand that if you do business as usual, you’re only going to get people who look like you?
2. Does the Council understand its obligation to encourage its affiliate

organizations to go out and proactively relate to people of color with disabilities?

Relating to outreach, Robinson discussed his concerns with acceptability in higher education. Teachers are not being educated about teaching people with disabilities. Each person in a classroom may have different needs.

Seegars has information on an upcoming disability film festival.

The next meeting of the committee is Nov. 8, same time (9:30 a.m. to noon), same place (DD Council office).

Betz announced the next meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission in Holland on Oct. 25.

Zamora said she had met with the Governor this morning at a round table on economics and she did bring up the subject of transportation accessibility, especially in Wayne County.

Hall moved to adjourn the meeting, and Robinson seconded. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

## **Housing Work Group**

### ***Aug. 25***

Present: Cheryl Trommater, Corrie Listenberger Bair, Terrie Hylton, Sue Eby, Linda Potter (phone) and Marc Craig (phone).

1. Meeting was called to order and members introduced themselves.

2. Sue moved that the minutes of the July 28, 2004 meeting be approved. Marc seconded. Motion carried.

### 3. Review of Consolidated Position Statement:

Changes to affordability were discussed.

- Current Status: 3F should include language that Linda provided regarding no place in the country affordable to a person on SSI. (page 3).
  - Housing and Urban Development should be spelled out the first time it is used (page 3).
  - Barriers: 2 d. PIH 2004-7 (HA) should be attached as an appendix. (Sue will provide page 4 and page 6) 7 Ask Bud and Tony to look at Barrier Free Design Board information.
  - Strategies: 5 (Attach proposed legislation for the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund as an appendix-page 6). 6 (Attached proposed legislation for the Michigan Affordable Housing Trust Fund as an appendix-page 7).
- Changes to accessibility, visitability and universal design were discussed
- Current Status: 4 need % of affordable housing that is accessible (Sue will find ). Linda will add language about the lack of accessibility in all housing and the fact that barrier free units are often rented to those who don't need them, making them unavailable to those who do.
  - Barriers: Linda will add language regarding barriers to using PDS funds.
  - Potential strategies: 7 footnote context sensitive design. 8 Corrie will send language on using the tax credit process to assure that barrier free units go to persons with disabilities.

Changes to Personal Support Services were discussed. This is part of the housing plan because affordable,

accessible housing is not all a person needs.

- Current Status: add 7 Discharge planners lack information regarding community options. Add 8 the Michigan Homeless Assistance Advisory Board is recruiting participation in a state-local planning committee on discharge planning practice and policy.
- Barriers: add 7: Licensing facilities are perceived as the only way to determine what quality of service is provided. Add 8 lack of funds available for Pas.
- Strategies: 1d Add mental health, substance abuse, foster care, rehab facilities, corrections, hospitals and other publicly supported residential facilities after educate and before discharge planners. 1e add participate in activities of the MHAAB planning committee on discharge planning policy and practice.

4. FY 2005 Workgroup workplan. Plan has been submitted to the multi-cultural committee and some of their comments have already been included. Recommended workplan revisions

- (under 5) Maintain an active and diverse membership.
- Discussion of expanding workgroup presentations to include presentations at conferences, particularly the Michigan Affordable Housing Conference
- Discussion of types of presentations needed, included barriers and solutions for accessibility and visitability for construction trades and architects. Discussion of how to get these issues included in university curriculums and other trainings. Terrie has some contacts in these areas. Corrie suggested sessions on Fair Housing. Housing Resources available is another topic of discussion.



5. Other business:

- Need to keep grant project ideas on the table, so that we don't miss opportunities.
- Discussion of how to fund Michigan study on cost of homelessness to public systems. DD Council is a possibility along with other DCH/MRS funds.

6. Next meeting will be October 27, 2004

6. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at about noon.

## **Program Committee**

### ***Sept. 14***

Present: Members: Corrie Bair; Don Trout; Vera Graham; Barbara LeRoy

Staff: Glenn Ashley; Cheryl Trommater

Issue: Minutes of the August meeting

Summary of Actions: Approved by consensus.

Issue: Preserving history – next steps

Summary of Actions: Glenn Ashley will be preparing annual update after annual reports from grantees are received.

Issue: Review revised plan for dissemination.

Summary of Actions: The committee reviewed the revisions. Members suggested separating out the policy from the procedures, with the policy to be brought back to the committee. Don moved, and Vera seconded, that advocacy for an accessible Michigan.gov website, to comply with existing law, be referred to the Public Policy Committee. Motion carried.

Issue: Recruiting a more diverse committee.

Summary of Actions: Corrie Bair and Theresa Arini will submit the Work Plan to the Multicultural Committee before the deadline.

Issue: Review and approve RFP calendar.

Summary of Actions: Don moved, and Barb seconded to approve the RFP calendar with the following changes: 1) remove the Education summit from the packet. 2) add match requirements, and 3) modify the timelines for the Housing projects if the Housing work group believes the Cross-project evaluation needs to start in time to offer Technical Assistance to local applicants. Motion carried.

Issue: Review and approve committee workplan for FY 2005.

Summary of Actions: Barb moved to approve the work plan, Don seconded, and the motion was approved.

Issue: Grant Writers Academy.

Summary of Actions: Following discussion of staff suggestions, the consensus was that 4 strategies be used this year: 1) consultation and TA with potential applicants, 2) sending staff to do training as request by groups in local areas, 3) providing information about training offered by other organizations, and 4) a one hour presentation at the CRC about 2 months before RICC mini-grants are due.

Issue: Staff Briefing: Preventing Guardianship.

Summary of Actions: Cheryl Trommater presented information about the project's progress, and consideration of a possible enhancement phase to carry the policy level advocacy statewide.

Issue: Status Reports: RFPs, etc.

Summary of Actions: The committee requested that copies of the proposed Land Use Plan Language be sent to the members.

## **Program Committee**

### ***Oct. 9***

Present: Members: Corrie Bair; Don Trout;  
Vera Graham; Donna Bedford

Guests: Cathy Maddalena, Esther Onaga

Staff: Glenn Ashley

Issue: Minutes of the September meeting

Summary of Actions: Approved by  
consensus.

Issue: Committee Work Plan, and recruiting  
a more diverse committee.

Summary of Actions: The Work Plan was  
submitted to the Multicultural Committee  
for review. Corrie and Teresa will make  
needed changes as recommended by the  
Multicultural Committee.

Issue: Update 5-year cycle for review of  
grant program.

Summary of Actions: Two changes were  
made:

- Changing "Grant Writer's Academy"  
to "Grant Writer's Assistance".
- Including "Forms, Narrative and  
Budget" in the process column.

Issue: RFP Survey – draft 2

Summary of Actions: The subcommittee of  
Barb, Corrie, and Cheryl have not met due  
to Cheryl's absence. The committee had  
several recommendations:

- Tie the questions directly to the  
purpose of the survey.
- Make it more user friendly for people  
with disabilities, including the reading  
level (grade 5 suggested) and the length.
- Eliminate items that are not decided by  
the committee (budget, duration, project  
specs, etc.)

Issue: Review and approve RFP calendar.

Summary of Actions: Corrie noted that there  
is a discrepancy between the dollar  
amounts at the top and bottom of the

page for the Finding Our Way Home  
state level project. It will be modified to  
match the plan language. The Education  
Summit will be removed from the RFP  
calendar, as it is not expected to be  
issued as an RFP.

Issue: Council Policy on Grants – Draft  
Elements.

Summary of Actions: The draft elements  
were discussed, and suggestions were  
given to staff for inclusion in the next  
draft.

Issue: Grantee Presentation: Study of  
Supports for Employment – Cathy  
Maddalena and Esther Onaga

Summary of Actions: Copies of their handouts  
are available. Make request to Glenn.

Issue: Status Reports:

Summary of Actions:

- Community Employment Partnerships  
were awarded to Allegan CMH, the Arc  
of Calhoun, and Central MI CMH -  
Midland.

The Cross-project Evaluation was  
awarded to Michigan State University.

- Project of National Significance  
Proposal on Leadership Development  
awards have not yet been announced.

- Enhancement Phase – Based on  
suggestions from the Executive  
Committee meeting, some proposed  
revisions to the policy and the worksheet  
will be proposed.

Consideration of the enhancement  
proposal for Preventing Guardianship  
(discussed at last month's Program  
Committee meeting) was tabled by the  
Executive Committee.

- The Transportation Work Group is  
submitting a request, with rationale, for a  
change in the funding amounts for the  
Voucher Pilot plan language. Committee  
members requested that a copy be sent.

